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TOP SECRET

COMOR-D-744-4

15 May 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

SUBJECT: Decontrol and Downgrading of  
Satellite Photography

Attached is what it is proposed to send to the United States Intelligence Board. Because of a crowded agenda, the USIB will be unable to consider this on 18 May. Please submit comments and suggestions to this office by close of business 17 May. This will permit addition of this item to our agenda if it is necessary to make any considerable changes.

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Executive Secretary  
Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

Attachment:  
Subject Draft

Copies 2, 3 State TCO  
4 DIA [redacted]  
5, 6, 7, 8 DIA TCO  
9, 10 OACSI TCO  
11, 12 ONI TCO  
13, 14, 15, 16 AFNIN TCO  
17, 18 NSA TCO  
19, 20, 21 NRO TCO

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MEMORANDUM FOR: United States Intelligence Board

SUBJECT: Decontrol and Downgrading of  
Satellite Photography

REFERENCES: a. Memo for Holders of USIB-D-41, 12/25,  
1 May 1967 [redacted]  
b. President's Letter of Instruction re  
[redacted]  
c. COMOR-D-7/44

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1. On 27 April the USIB directed COMOR to propose specific guidelines for the use of intelligence derived from the exploitation of satellite photography in SECRET or TOP SECRET publications. A paper setting forth the recommended guidelines is attached as Tab A.

2. In addition to the recommended guidelines we have considered the following additional points:

a. The President's Letter of Instruction of

25X1 August 26, 1960 [redacted] directs that the products of satellite reconnaissance, and information of the fact of such reconnaissance, will be given strict security handling

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within the TALENT-KEYHOLE Control System. A draft of a letter amending these instructions is attached as Tab B.

b. National Security Council Action Memo

concerning U.S. policy with regard to reconnaissance satellites may require some revision, but since this is not within the purview of COMOR's responsibilities we are making no specific recommendation.

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c. The COMOR Sanitization Manual will need to be revised in the light of the procedures approved by USIB. This work will be carried out by COMOR according to normal procedure as soon as USIB has acted on Tab A. Included in the revisions will be provisions to relax the sanitization and decontrol of photography for use in targeting, illustrations, etc.

d. At its meeting on 27 April the Board agreed to the recommendation of the Acting Chairman to leave to the individual agencies the decision as to how persons not cleared for TALENT-KEYHOLE information would be informed of the continuing importance and sensitivity of

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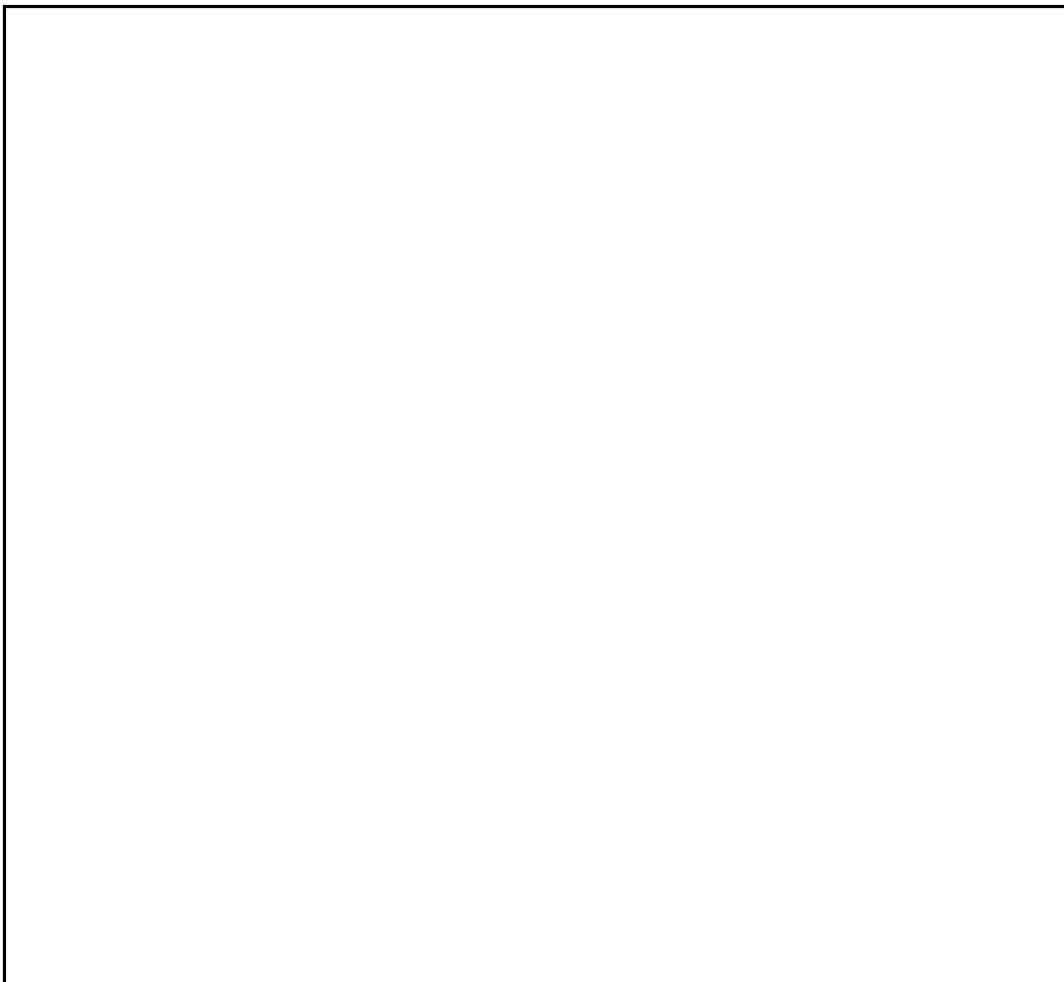
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COMOR-D-7744-4

the satellite reconnaissance program. The COMOR security advisers have recommended, however, that documents including and identifying information derived from satellite reconnaissance carry the caveat in Tab C. I believe that their recommendation has merit inasmuch as the caveat would serve to supplement the instructions issued by the various agencies.



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Chairman

Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

Attachments

Tabs A, B, and C

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TAB B

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Secretary of State  
The Secretary of Defense\*  
The Attorney General\*\*  
The Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission  
The Director of Central Intelligence

On August 26, 1960, the President directed that the products of satellite reconnaissance, and information of the fact of such reconnaissance revealed by the product, shall be given strict security handling under the provisions of a special security control system.

I confirm the importance of maintaining the TALENT-KEYHOLE Control System for the purpose of protecting the extent of our satellite reconnaissance program, the extent of its successes, its operational characteristics, and its technical details. I am modifying the instructions contained in the August 26, 1960, letter, however, to the extent of authorizing the Director of Central Intelligence to permit information derived from satellite reconnaissance to be revealed in SECRET or TOP SECRET publications with attribution to "satellite reconnaissance" and the use of sanitized photography

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\* For Department of Defense including 8  
OSD, JCS, Army, Navy, Air Force,  
and NSA

\*\*For Director, FBI

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TAB C

WARNING

1. This document contains classified information affecting the national security of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, U.S. Code Title 18, Section 793, 794, 798.
2. This report contains U.S. Photographic Satellite source information which is limited to United States citizens.
3. No action is to be taken on any information contained herein without specific approval by the Director of Central Intelligence.
4. Group I. Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification.

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Copy	1	DCI TCO for USIB/S
	22	[REDACTED]
	23	DDP TCO
	24, 25	CGS
	26, 27	CIA COMOR Member
	28, 29	Ch/PWG
	30	Special Center TCO
	31	CGS ReqBr/RecceGrp
	32-40	Asst Ops/NPIC
	41	C/LAS/DDI (Attn: [REDACTED])
	42	TSO CIA
	43	DDS&T [REDACTED]
	44	ASA/D/DCI/NIPE
	45	C/ILSS/DDS&T
	46	D/OSI
	47	D/OSP
	48	D/OEL
	49	D/SA
	50	D/O/OSA
	51	Intel/O/OSA
	52	SS/OSA
	53	SA/OSA
	54	D/FMSAC
	55-59	SA(COMOR)/DDS&T

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